

REMARKS

In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 1-6 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,499,785 in view of Brent. In paragraph 5 of the Action, claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brent. In paragraph 6 of the Action, claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawahito et al.

In view of the rejections, claim 2 has been cancelled, and the subject matter of cancelled claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1 together with other limitations. Also, claims 3 and 4 have been amended, and new claims 7 and 8 have been added.

A receptacle of the invention comprises a box member having an opening, a guide rail extending along the opening of the box member, a sliding lid slidably situated in the guide rail for opening and closing the opening of the box member, a housing portion provided at one end of the box member for storing the sliding lid, and drive means attached to the sliding lid for moving the same in an opening or closing direction.

In the invention, the drive means includes an arm, a second gear, and a torsion spring. Namely, the arm has an end engaging the sliding lid, a base formed at the other end of the arm and a first gear formed at the base. The second gear engages the first gear, and the torsion spring engages the second gear for urging the second gear in one direction. Thus, the sliding lid is automatically moved through the arm by the torsion spring in the opening or closing direction.

In Eguchi, a storage device includes a sliding lid 5 for opening or closing an opening section of a box member 4. The sliding lid 5 can be moved into an accommodating section 8. In the invention, the drive means is attached to the sliding lid for

moving the lid in the opening or closing. However, Eguchi does not have the drive means.

In Brent, a receptacle 27 has a housing module 26 attached to the receptacle 27. The module 26 includes doors 2, motor modules 3 attached to the doors 2 for opening and closing the doors 2, and photodetectors 6 for actuation of the motor modules 3. The motor module 3 includes a motor 34, and a gear 19 attached to the motor 34 and engaging door gear teeth 22. Thus, when the motor 34 is operated, the gear 19 rotates to directly move the door 2.

In the drive means of the invention, the arm has an end engaging the sliding lid, the base formed at the other end of the arm, and the first gear formed at the base. The second gear engages the first gear, and the torsion spring engages the second gear for urging the second gear in one direction. Thus, the sliding lid is automatically moved through the arm by the torsion spring in the opening or closing direction. In Brent, the gear 19 attached to the motor 34 directly engages the door to open and close the same. The drive means including the arm and torsion spring as clearly recited in claim 1 of the invention is not disclosed or suggested by Brent.

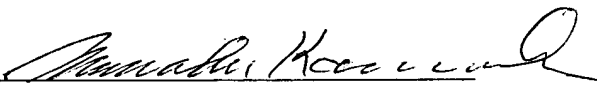
In Kawahito et al., a lid assembly Y is slidably attached to an autoclave body. The lid assembly Y can be automated by a driving mechanism using a geared motor 31, and a chain 32 attached to a plate 1. Namely, as shown in Fig. 4, the motor 31 engages the chain 32 to move the plate 1. The drive means including the arm and torsion spring as clearly recited in claim 1 of the invention is not disclosed or suggested in Kawahito et al.

As explained above, the cited references do not disclose or suggest the features of the invention. Especially, the drive means as recited in claim 1 of the invention are not disclosed or suggested by any cited references. Claims pending in the application are patentable over the prior art of record.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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